

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 03058 082336Z

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ACTION EB-07

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, MX

SUBJECT: US-GOM CIVAIR NEGOTIATIONS

REF: MEXICO 2789

1. CIVAIR NEGOTIATIONS CONCLUDED AFTERNOON MARCH 8 WITHOUT ANY NEW AGREEMENT. WHEN MEETING BEGAN, MEXDEL CHAIRMAN SAID GOM ACCEPTED PROPOSAL FOR EXTENSION EXISTING AGREEMENT, BUT FOR NO MORE THAN ONE YEAR. HE EXPLAINED THAT THREE YEARS WOULD LOOK BAD. IN INTEREST REFLECTING CONTINUED FRIENDLY US-MEXICO CIVAIR RELATIONS, BOTH SIDES SHOULD CONSIDER PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE AND THAT THERE WAS STILL POSSIBILITY OF REACHING AGREEMENT EVEN BEFORE FURTHER ONE YEAR EXTENSION EXPIRED.

2. USDEL AGREED TO DESIRABILITY AVOIDING ADVERSE PUBLIC REACTIONS WHICH MIGHT RESULT FROM LEAVING MATTERS IN A NEGATIVE POSTURE, BUT SUGGESTED THIS COULD BEST BE DONE BY ANNOUNCING AGREEMENT ON ONE OR TWO SMALL MATTERS, SPECIFICALLY SUBSTITUTING LAS VEGAS FOR SANTA ANNA ON MEXICAN ROUTE Q AND ADDING A U.S. EL PASO ROUTE. MEXDEL AGREED TO CONCEPT IN PRINCIPLE BUT SAID UNABLE GIVE FULL ANSWER AT THIS TIME.

3. AFTER CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION, FOLLOWING WAS AGREED:

A. AGREEMENT WOULD BE EXTENDED FOR ONE YEAR, I.W. UNTIL APRIL 30, 1977, BUT EXCHANGE NOTES DOING THIS WOULD BE

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 03058 082336Z

DEFERRED PENDING OUTCOME PARA B BELOW.

B. MEXDEL WOULD RESPOND ON ROUTE Q AND EL PASO PROPOSALS THROUGH EMBASSY IN NEXT FEW WEEKS. IF AGREEMENT ON THESE TWO QUESTIONS POSSIBLE, NECESSARY AMENDMENT TO BILATERAL AGREEMENT WOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED AT SAME TIME AS AGREEMENT EXTENDED FOR ONE YEAR. IF NO SOLUTION FOUND ON THESE TWO QUESTIONS, AGREEMENT WOULD BE EXTENDED WITHOUT CHANGE.

C. MEXDEL CHAIRMAN MAY MEET UNOFFICIALLY WITH CAB STAFF BEFORE APRIL 30 FOR BETTER UNDERSTANDING ONE ANOTHER'S PROBLEMS, BUT WITHOUT COMMITMENT TO ANYTHING DISCUSSED IN SUCH CONVERSATION.

4. COMMENT: IT IS USDEL'S ASSESSMENT THAT, IN LAST ANALYSIS, MEXICAN AVIATION INTERESTS WERE IN SUFFICIENTLY STRONG POSITION TO OVERCOME TOURISM PRESSURES. FACT MEXDEL DID NOT INTRODUCE ANY NEW PACKAGE AT LAST MINUTE, BUT INSTEAD FOCUSED ONLY ON EXTENSION ISSUE, IS INDICATIVE OF THIS.
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